#### **BEFORE**

#### THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

#### **DOCKET NO. 2022-88-T**

Application of MyRide SC, LLC for Class C (Non-Emergency) Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Operation of Motor Vehicle Carrier

#### MYRIDE'S OPPOSITION TO INTERVENTION OF CANDACE BURCH

MyRide SC, LLC ("MyRide") urges the Commission deny the intervention of Candace Burch because she has not complied with the Commission's regulations. S.C. Code Reg. 103-825(3).

#### BACKGROUND

MyRide applied for a Class C (Non-Emergency) Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity on March 1, 2022. On March 10. 2022, Maria Walker filed a Letter of Protest in which she argued MyRide's equipment is not safe. On March 14, 2022, Candace Burch filed a letter of protest urging the Commission deny MyRide's application based on the contention that there are "more providers than necessary to serve ....private facilities and the SCDHHS state-appointed broker." The next day, Merit Transit, LLC ("Merit Transit"), a company in which Ms. Burch is the principal officer, applied for a Class C (Non-Emergency) Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity with statewide authority, therefore requesting to serve the same counties she claims are saturated. See Application of Merit Transit LLC for a Class C (Non-Emergency) Certificate Dkt No. 2022-118-T, (Application attached as Exhibit A). The Commission voted to approve Merit's application on April 7, 2022 and issued its Order on April 19, 2022. Order 2022-230, Dkt. 2022-118-T.

MyRide responded to Ms. Burch's letter of protest on March 24, 2022. On the same day, the Commission approved a motion by Commissioner Caston to "request the Office of Regulatory Staff investigate this Application and the Letter of Protest received in this Docket." Order 2022-171. ORS responded to the Commission on April 15, 2022. Regarding Ms. Walker's protest, ORS explained it conducts a "thorough inspection of every entity that applies for a Class C (Non-Emergency) Certificate" after the Commission approves an application and it will not issue a certificate if the company fails inspection. Regarding Ms. Burch's protesst, ORS said the agency "does not offer an opinion regarding the need for Clas C (Non-Emergency Carriers)".

Up to this point, everyone involved—Commission, MyRide, and ORS—had treated Ms. Burch's correspondence as a letter of protest. However, on April 19, 2022, the Chief Hearing Officer issued an Order granting Ms. Burch intervenor status. Order No. 2022-37-H. After MyRide pointed to its March 24<sup>th</sup> response to Ms. Burch's letter of protest, the Chief Hearing Officer rescinded his Order granting intervention, and referred the question to the Commission. Order No. 2022-38-H.

On April 25, 2022, Scott Bagwell, the Customer Advocate/Transportation Manager for Modivcare, the sole transportation broker for non-emergency medical transportation for South Carolina's Medicaid program, wrote a letter supporting My Ride and explained that delay of the carrier's application was harming the state's citizens. On April 27, 2022, Ms. Burch filed a second letter of protest stating that she desires to "intervene and protest the letter sent by Modivcare."

#### **DISCUSSION**

#### 1. Ms. Burch lacks standing to intervene.

Ms. Burch has failed to state a sufficient interest in this matter to justify intervention. S.C. Code Ann. Reg. 103-825(A)(3) requires that petitions to intervene "set forth clearly and concisely:

(a) [t]he facts from which the nature of the petitioner's alleged right or interest can be determined" An intervenor must state "a legally protected interest that is either (a) concrete and particularized or (b) actual or imminent.". *In re: Petition of S.C.E.&G. Co.* Order 2012-495, Dkt. 2012-203-E, p. 1.

Ms. Burch states she is the owner and principal "of a transportation company for non emergency services that serves, Horry, Georgetown, Williamsburg, Marion, Dillon, Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester Counties." Letters of Protest, March 14, 2022, and April 25, 2022. While her transportation company may have an economic interest in stifling competition for Class C services, Ms. Burch, in her personal capacity, does not. Mere ownership in a company is not sufficient to justify intervention. *See* Order 2012-495 *supra* (in which utility shareholder was denied intervention). Also, the Rules of Civil Procedure require that "Every action shall be prosecuted in the name of the real party in interest." *SCRCP* Rule 17(a). Ms. Burch is not the real party in interest behind this intervention, her transportation company is. Therefore, Ms. Burch's petition to intervene must be denied.<sup>1</sup>

## 2. Ms. Burch's petition to intervene violates the doctrine of judicial estoppel.

The Supreme Court has adopted these elements of judicial estoppel:

(1) two inconsistent positions taken by the same party or parties in privity with one another; (2) the positions must be taken in the same or related proceedings involving the same party or parties in privity with each other; (3) the party taking the position must have been successful in maintaining that position and have received some benefit; (4) the inconsistency must be part of an intentional effort to mislead the court; and (5) the two positions must be totally inconsistent.

Cothran v. Brown, 357 S.C. 210, 215-16, 592 S.E.2d 629, 632 (2004).

Because Ms. Burch is acting on behalf of a company, she may not appear may not appear pro se under Rule 103-805.B.

Each of element of judicial estoppel is met in this case:

- 1) Ms. Burch took inconsistent positions before the Commission within a twenty-four-hour period regarding the restricted market that her company and MyRide desire to serve. On March 14, 2022, Ms. Burch told the Commission that the counties MyRide plans to serve "have more providers than necessary to serve the transportation and/or the ride allocation needs of all private facilities and the SCDHHS state-appointed broker." Yet, the very next day, Ms. Burch's company Merit Transit, applied to serve the same counties she claims are overserved. Because Class C carriers operate in a restricted market, they have the functional equivalent of privity.
- 2) The filings are related. They both pertain to the need for Class C non-emergency carriers, so both necessarily implicated MyRide.
- Ms. Burch received a benefit because the Commission has voted to approve Merit's application.
- 4) Ms. Burch's filings are meant to mislead the Commission as to the need for Class C non-emergency carriers.
- 5) Ms. Burch's positions are totally inconsistent: either more carriers are needed, or they are not. She cannot have it both ways (if there are too many carriers, the Commission should reconsider its approval of Merit Transportation's application). Also, Ms. Burch cannot disavow the statements of her company, because she is acting on its behalf. SCRCP Rule 17.

#### 3. Ms. Burch does not state valid grounds for intervention.

Ms. Burch's grounds for denying MyRide's application consist of bald assertions and vague anecdotal accounts of reductions in ride allocations. In Welsch Moving & Storage Co. v.

Public Service Commission, the Supreme Court reversed the Commission's denial of a motor carrier's application because it solely relied on the testimony of potential competitors. The Court explained its decision as follows:

Here, in deciding that grant of a certificate to Welch would not serve the public convenience and necessity, PSC relied exclusively upon the testimony of four licensed carriers from the midlands and upstate regions.

These carriers, potential competitors of Welch, testified that, due to a decrease in business, existing carriers were left with excess capacity to handle a greater number of moves. Additionally, one carrier testified that increased competition would cause cutbacks, resulting in less expensive but inferior quality service.

No expert testimony or statistical surveys were presented to indicate that the public convenience is being served. The carriers' testimony related primarily to concerns that increased competition would adversely affect their businesses. Although detriment to the income of existing carriers is relevant, it is not determinative and "should not in itself defeat an application for additional services (citation omitted)."

Welch Moving & Storage Co. v. Pub. Serv. Com., 301 S.C. 259, 261-62, 391 S.E.2d 556, 557 (1990)

After *Welch*, the Commission rejected the same kind of loss of income arguments advanced by Ms. Burch in a household goods moving case. *In Re: Application of McCorquodale Transfer, Inc. for a Class E Certificate*. Order 2004-331, Dkt. No. 2003-187-T. Ms. Burch seeks to oppose MyRide's application with the same evidence the Supreme Court has ruled insufficient to deny an application. She has brought no scientific and verifiable evidence to the Commission, only her stated desire to avoid competition. Her intervention should be denied for failing to state viable grounds for intervention as required by S.C. Code Reg. 103-825(3).

#### **CONCLUSION**

As Modiveare has informed the Commission, the delay caused by Ms. Burch's maneuvers "has caused a great inconvenience to Modiveare and the citizens of South Carolina because there are not enough providers in the listed areas." Letter of April 15, 2022. The Commission should reject Ms. Burch's attempt to manipulate the intervention process to stifle legitimate competition.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Charlie Terreni

Date: April 28, 2022

Charles L.A. Terreni
TERRENI LAW FIRM, LLC
1508 Lady Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
Tel. (803) 771-7228
charles.terreni@terrenilaw.com
SC Bar. No. 15235

# EXHIBIT A

STATE O	OF SOUTH CAROLINA	306047		
	of Case)  pplication for a Class C Charter Certificate from  In Doe dba Doe's Limo	BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA		
Merit Transit LLC 528 Piedmont Ave Myrtle Beach, SC 29577		DOCKET 2022 1/8 T		
		If this is your first time filing an application with the PSC, you will have a Docket Number. The Commission will assign one to you. If have filed with the Commission before, a Docket Number was assig and should be entered above.		
(Please type Submitted	or print)  I by: William Burch	Telephone: 843-353-0490		
Address:	528 Piedmont Ave	Fax: 843-839-5060		
	Myrtle Beach, SC 29577	Other:		
		Email: rockburch@gmail.com		
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Fax: (803) 896-5199

Page: 4 of 17

To:

From: William Rock Burch

If you have any questions about this form, please contact the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION at 803-896-5100.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100
Columbia, South Carolina 29210
Phone: (803) 896-5100 Fax: (803) 896-5199

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE CARRIER

CLASS C - NON-EVERGENCY	Date: 3/17/2022
Application is hereby made for a Certificate of Public Convenience at of S.C. Code Ann., § 58-23-10, et seq. (1976), and amendments there	id Necessity, in accordance with the provision
Merit Transit LLC	
Name under which business is to be conducted (corporation, partnership,	or sole proprietorship with or without trade name
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528 Piedmont Ave, Myrtle Beac	h, SC 29577
Street Address of Application	ant
المراقع المراقع المراقع المراقع	
Mailing Address of Applicant (if different	from street address)
843-343-0490	
Phone	843-839-5060
	Fax
rockburch@gmail.co Email Address	m
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If the Applicant is an LLC or a corporation, a copy of the Certificate Secretary of State and the Articles of Incorporation must be attached. Carolina Secretary of State "Foreign Corporation" Certificate.)	of Existence from the South Carolina (If incorporated outside of SC, attach South
3. Select Entity Type: (Check one)	المراقع المراقع ويستان المراقع
Individual Owner/Sole Proprietorship	
Partnership List names and address of all person having an in	Acres de la collection
Corporation - List names and addresses of two principal office	herest in the business.
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Candace Burch	ر و در از
101 Split Oak Ct, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588	

## Financial Statement

Assets:  Value of Real Estate  Description  Value of Motor Vehicles  Z50,000  Loans Owed on Motor Vehicles  Value of Motor Vehicles  Z50,000  Loans Owed on Motor Vehicles  Z50,000  Cash on Hand  1,000  Business/Other Loans Owed  Cash in Bank  10,000  Other Liabilities of Debts  Value of Other Assets and  Equipment  Total Liabilities  761,000		Financial		FO
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#### INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. "Value of Real Estate" means the actual or estimated market value of any real property/buildings owned by the Company/Business Applying for a Certificate.
- 2. "Morigage/Loan on Real Estate" means the outstanding balance on any Morigage, Equity Line or other Loan secured by the Real Estate listed in Item 1.
- 3. "Value of Motor Vehicles" means the actual or fair estimated value of any moving vans, trucks or other vehicles owned by the Company/Business Applying for a Certificate.
- means the outstanding balance on any loans or liens on the vehicles listed in Item;
- "Cash on Hand" is the total of actual cash held by the Company/Business applying for a Certificate on the day this
- 6. "Business/Other Loans Owed" means the outstanding balance on any small business loan or other unsecured loan made by a person, bank or business to the Business/Company applying for a Certificate.
- In Bank" means the current balance in checking accounts, savings accounts or the like in the name of the Company/Business applying for a Certificate. Do not include retirement accounts or personal bank account balances,
- 8. "Value of Other Assets and Equipment" should include the actual of estimated value of items such as office equipment (computers/furnishings), moving equipment (hand trucks/blankets/strapping), and trailers:
- 9. "Other Liabilities or Debts" means specific amounts/balances which the Company/Business applying for a Certificate knows that it owes to other persons or companies; for example Franchise Fees. This does NOT include regular bills such as electricity bills, security system costs, insurance, salaries, etc.

# Proposed Rates and Charges:

Ambulatory Rates

Max Rate-\$100 pick up fee \$5.00 per mile

Wheelchair Rates

Max Rate-\$200 pick up fee \$6.00 per mile

Requested Scope of Authority: Check all counties in which you are requesting permission to operate. You will only be allowed to operate in those counties checked below. You may request "Statewide" authority if you intend to operate in all counties in South Carolina.

Abbeville	Cherokee	Florence	Lies	Saluda
Aiken	Ghester	Georgetown	Lexington	Spartanburg
Allendale	Chesterfield	Greenville	Marion	Sumter
Anderson	Glarendon	Greenwood	Marlboro	Union
Bamberg	Colleton	Hampton	McCoriniek	Williamsburg
Barnwell	Darlington	Horry	Newberry	York
Beaufort	Dillon	Jasper	Coones	المواد الموا المواد المواد
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Charleston	Fairfield	Laurens	Richland	

## DESCRIPTION OF EQUIPMENT

You are not required to own a vehicle to file an application. However, prior to being issued a certificate by ORS you will be required to have obtained a vehicle.

Maximum Number of Passengers Vehicle is Equipped to Carry: (The number of passengers a vehicle is equipped to carry is based on the number of seatbelts in the vehicle, including the driver's seatbelt.)

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From: William Rock Burch Fax: To: Fax: (803) 896-5199 Page: 9 of 17 03/17/2022 3:08 PM

## INSURANCE OF CHE

This form MUSTABLE COMPLETED

The insurance quote must be complete, listing current insurance premiums. At the discretion of the Commission, a copy of current insurance policies may be required. Do not provide a copy of insurance policies unless requested. You will not be required to purchase insurance until your application has been approved and an order has been issued by the PSC. THIS IS ONLY A QUOTE.

The following insurance quote is for:							
	Merit Transit LLC						
Name of Applicant							
528 E	528 Pledmont Ave, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577						
	Address of Applicant						
Amount of Premium:	ا من المنظم المنظم والمنظم المنظم المن						
Ligbility Insurance \$ \$4,889,21		Fire Lullander					
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Old Republic Surety Insurance (Correll Insurance Agency)							
Name of Insurance Company							
1066 Asheville Hwy, Spartanburg, SG 29304							
40	me Office Address of Compa	ny					

I, the Applicant, am familiar with the Commission's Rules and Regulations relating to insurance requirements and the above quote meets the minimum insurance limits prescribed. The insurance company making this quote is authorized by the South Carolina Department of Insurance to do business in South Carolina.

#### NOTICE:

If you wish to self-insure your motor vahicles for liability and property damage, you must comply with S.C. Code Ann. (803) 896-9903.

If you wish to apply as a self-insured for worker's compensation coverage in South Carolina you may do so with the South Carolina Worker's Compensation Commission (WCC) provided that you will be able to: 1) post a surety bond or letter of credit with the WCC for a minimum of \$500,000, 2) agree to pay a yearly self-insurance tax, and 3) agree to pay an annual assessment to the South Carolina Second Injury Fund, For more information, contact the WCC Self-Insurance Division at (803) 737-5712 or on the web at www.wcc.state.sc.us/self-insurance.

LECTRONICALLY FILED - 2022 April 28 12:10 PM - SCPSC - Docket # 2022-88-T - Page 14 of 24

CCEPTED FOR PROCESSING - 2022 March 18 8:06 AM - SCPSC - 2022-1/18-T - Page F of 15

## Exhibit Fit, Willing, and Able (FWA)

Merit Transit LLC Name

1. Is there currently any outstanding judgments against the Applicant?

- O Yes
- No.

If Yes, list judgements here:

- 2. Is Applicant familiar with all statutes and regulations, including safety regulations and governing for-hire motor carrier operations in South South Carolina, and does Applicant agree to operate in compliance with these statutes and regulations?
  - O Yes
- O No
- 3. Is Applicant aware of the Commission's insurance requirements and the insurance premium costs associated therewith?
  - Yes
- O No

O Yes.

O No

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<u>.</u>

:<u>.</u>16

From: William Rock Burch Fax: To: Fax: (803) 896-5199 Page: 12 of 17 03/17/2022 3:08 PM

#### PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA 101 EXECUTIVE CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 100 COLUMBIA, SOUTH GAROLINA 29216

Applicant is familiar with the provision of S.C. Code Ann. §58-23-10, et seq.(1976), and amendments thereto, and R.103-100 through R.103-241 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations for Motor Carriers (S.C. Code Ann. Regs., 1976), and R.38-400 through R.38-503 of the Department of Public Safety's Rules and Regulations for Motor Carriers (Volume 2, S.C. Code Ann., 1976) and amendments thereto, and hereby promises compliance therewith.

S.G. Code Ann. Section 58-3-250 states, in part, that every final order of the Commission must be served by electronic service, registered or certified mail, upon the parties to the proceeding or their attorneys.

# Please check the applicable box:

The Applicant AGREES to receive future Commission orders related to the Applicant's authority in South Carolina through the Commission's everyies System. The Applicant authorizes the Commission to serve its orders by using the email address as it appears on page one of this Application. To sign up for everyies notifications, please visit www.psc.sc. gov to create a My DMS account.

The Applicant DOBS NOT AGREE to receive future Commission orders related to the Applicant's authority in South Carolina through the Commission's exercise System.

The Applicant for the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity as set forth in the foregoing, swear or affirm that all statements contained in the above application are true and correct.

Applicant's Signature

PRESIDENT 3/17/22

Title of Applicant (e.g. President, Owner, etc.)

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF HOLEN

This H SWORN TO BEFORE ME

Bay of FEBRUARY 2002

Daired Rolled

Notary Public

Commission Expires 05 - 66 - 305

NOTAR OF THE CASE OF THE CASE

A contrapile from

From: William Rock Burch Fax: To: Fax: (803) 896-5199 Page: 13 of 17 03/17/2022 3:08 P

Filing ID: 220203-0859166

Filing Date: 02/02/2022

#### STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA SECRETARY OF STATE

# ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION Limited Liability Company - Domestic

The undersigned delivers the following articles of organization to form a South Carolina limited liability company pursuant to S.C. Gode of Laws Section 33-44-202 and Section 33-44-203.

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To:

From: William Rock Burch

Fax: (803) 896-5199

rom: William Rock Burch	Fex:	To:	Fax: (803) 896-5199	Page: 15 of 17	03/17/2022 3:
			Merit Transit LLC		
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To:

Date:	03/17/2022	
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Pages including cover sheet: | 17

То:	
Phone	
Fax Phone	(803) 896-5199

From:	William Rock Burch Merit Transport	
San Mark Millerate A. V	528 Piedn	nont Ave
	Myrtle Bea	ach
	sc	29577
Phone	(843) 626	-3937 * 500
Fax Phone		

## NOTE:

Merit Transit LLC- Non Emergency Application

# **Business Entities Online**

# **Merit Transit LLC**

South Carolina Secretary of State  Business Entities Onli  File, Search, and Retrieve Documents Electronicall			ACCEPTED FOR PROCESSING
Merit T	ransit LLC		PROC
Corporate Information	Importan	t Dates	(6)
Entity Type: Limited Liability Company	Effective D	ate: 02/02/2022	SING -
Status: Good Standing	Expiration D	ate: N/A	2022
Domestic/Foreign: Domestic	Term End D	ate:N/A	2022 March
Incorporated State: South Carolina	Dissolved D	ate: N/A	
Registered Agent			
Agent: Candace Burch			AM - SCP
Address: 528 Piedmont Ave.  Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29577			SCPSC
	•		SC - 2022-118-T - F
Official Documents On File			-118
Filing Type	Filing Date		П-П
Articles of Organization	02/02/2022		age -
			15 of
For filing questions please contact us at 803-734-2158		Copyright © 2022 State of South Car	

#### **BEFORE**

#### THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

#### **OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

#### **DOCKET NO. 2022-88-T**

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, CARL E. BELL, hereby certify that I have, on this April 28, 2022 served the MyRide's SC, LLC OPPOSITION TO INTERVENTION of Candace M. Burch upon the parties listed below by electronic mail and a copy of the above document by U.S. Mail today to Ms. Candace M. Burch:

Andrew M. Bateman, Counsel Email: abateman@ors.sc.gov

David Stark, Staff Counsel Email: <u>David.stark@psc.sc.gov</u>

Jeffrey M. Nelson

Email: jnelson@ors.sc.gov

David Swanner

Email: dave@myRide-SC.com

SCPSC Legal Filings

Email: legalfilings@psc.sc.gov

Candace M. Burch

Email: bigmamaburch@gmail.com

/s/ Carl E. Bell

Carl E. Bell, Paralegal Terreni Law Firm, LLC 1508 Lady Street Columbia, South Carolina 29201 Telephone (803) 771-7228 Fax (803) 771-8778 carlbell@terrenilaw.com